UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/1184
17 December 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH AND FRENCH

LETTER DATED 17 DECEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention and to the attention of the members of the Security Council certain provisions of the draft resolution contained in document S/1998/1183 which run counter to the provisions of the Settlement Plan and infringe our national interests.

In the draft resolution's third preambular paragraph, the Security Council welcomes the stated position of the Government of Morocco and "the formal acceptance by the POLISARIO Front to implement the package of measures contained in paragraph 2 of the report of the Secretary-General" (S/1998/1160).

This preambular paragraph does not accurately reflect the actual state of affairs. The Moroccan Government did indeed welcome the Secretary-General's arbitration in favour of the 65,000 applicants. With regard to the package of measures proposed by the Secretary-General, however, the Moroccan Government has already drawn the attention of the Security Council to the fact that the simultaneity of the identification and appeals processes is not in conformity with the Plan. It has also communicated to the Secretary-General its position on the various protocols submitted to it and is awaiting his response.

As to commending the other party for its acceptance of the package of measures, such praise is, to say the least, unjustified.

Nowhere does the draft resolution mention the four years that have been lost because of the other party, the last year being the year that has elapsed since Houston.

Nor does the draft resolution mention that the recommendation made by the Secretary-General in November 1995, which was the subject of a resolution (issued provisionally) and resolved the problem of the tribal groupings in a fair and equitable manner, was simply withdrawn under pressure from certain quarters.

In any event, the main feature of the Secretary-General's package of measures, simultaneity, does not affect the other party, since identification of the applicants presented by that party has already been completed.

Furthermore, the protocol on refugees concerns one of the host countries, rather than the other party.

Under paragraph 1 of the draft resolution (S/1998/1183), the Security Council would decide to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 31 January 1999 to allow for further consultations on the Secretary-General's proposals.

It would be preferable not to limit those discussions by preventing any discussion of the problems encountered, as is the intention in the last phrase of paragraph 1, which asks that the integrity of the measures proposed not be undermined, nor the main elements of the Secretary-General's package called into question.

The Moroccan Government does not share the view expressed by the Security Council in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution that the implementation of the Secretary-General's proposal on simultaneity "could clearly demonstrate the willingness of the parties to accelerate the referendum process".

Indeed, the Moroccan Government has already drawn the Council's attention to the fact that this simultaneity is not in conformity with the Settlement Plan.

Furthermore, in its response to the Secretary-General, the Moroccan Government has drawn attention to the negative repercussions of the implementation of this proposal in its present form with respect to the political situation and the maintenance of order in the region.

We hope that the Security Council will take the legitimate concerns of the Moroccan Government into consideration in the draft resolution in order to make it possible for it to abide by the resolution with little difficulty once it is adopted.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Ahmed SNOUSSI
Ambassador

S/1998/1185

Readex
Fiche

UNITED NATIONS **A S**

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/759
S/1998/1185
17 December 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 54
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI OCCUPATION OF AND AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 17 December 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the communiqué issued yesterday by the Government of Mexico concerning the situation in Iraq (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Manuel TELLO
Permanent Representative of Mexico
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Press release issued on 16 December 1998 by the Government of Mexico

With regard to the attack that took place in Iraq today, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to state the following:

The Government of Mexico has followed closely and with deep concern the events that have developed following the submission to the Security Council today of reports on Iraq's cooperation with the United Nations authorities responsible for monitoring compliance with Security Council resolutions.

On the basis of its foreign policy principles as set out in article 89, section X, of the Constitution, the Government of Mexico regrets that it was not possible to reach a solution through the diplomatic channel and that recourse was had to the use of force, to the detriment of a lasting political solution.

The Government of Mexico reaffirms its conviction that in order to reach a definitive solution to this dispute in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, it is imperative that the procedures provided for in international law be followed and that the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, which Mexico fully supports, be implemented in their entirety.